



Forum 4
Chinese – Now and Then

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Chinese – Now and Then
by Joe Escobar – Friday, February 26, 2016, 10:07 PM

This thread is for discussions on the Chinese – Now and Then topic.

To make your POSTS, click the reply link in this, MY post. To reply to another student's post, be sure to click the reply link within in THEIR post.

IMPORTANT – SUBJECT LINES

BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post, something that describes which question(s) you are addressing . Do NOT simply leave it RE: Chinese – Now and Then

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How the Chinese were viewed
by Titus Young – Sunday, February 28, 2016, 8:08 PM

The cartoons that I saw gave me the impression that the Chinese have, (and still are), in control of most manufacturing. one cartoon showed Uncle Sam being eaten by a Chinese man and an Irish man. The main point of that particular cartoon is that if America doesn't be careful it will be over run by imagrints. Another cartoon depicts a Chinese man with multiple arms and each arm preforming a different task. This shows that when the Chinese would try something new they would probably become experts in that particular craft. The commercial might be a bit silly at first but the underlying message should be a little bit scary, what if in 14 years we do owe to much money to the Chinese and become in essence their slaves?

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Re: How the Chinese were viewed
by Bryan Jakiemiec – Thursday, March 3, 2016, 11:49 PM

In response to the cartoon about the Chinese man will arms everywhere, I think it is implying that the Chinese people are beginning to have their hands in all business fields. This is what is scaring Americans. The fear that the Chinese people would eventually dominate all these different business sections, eventually leading to a firm grasp on the American economy, is what drove the making of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. I do agree that the commercial is a bit silly, but at the same time, quite scary. Hopefully our debt to China shrinks in time.

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Roles reversed?



by [Michaela Ensele](#) – Monday, February 29, 2016, 3:53 PM

After reading chapter 18 and realizing just how unfairly the United States treated the Chinese makes me very uneasy about how much we actually do rely on China and their supplies today. In 1850 many Chinese immigrants were drawn to California because of the gold rush and as the book says on page 596 "Chinese immigrants intended to be sojourners, not permanent settlers." meaning they wanted to find gold or make money and then go back to China to support their wives and children. This didn't always work out because then the railroad industries started employing them specifically the Central Pacific Railroad company. The Chinese got minimal wages and worked in many hazardous environments. I believe this video and the cartoons should be a wake up call for American citizens because how do we know history is repeating itself and now the roles won't reverse on us?

The commercial states that we now work for them and they all laugh, I connect this with the very first cartoon where there is a Chinese man with a bunch of arms doing many tasks at once and the drawing beside it is a group of Americans that seem to be standing around and wondering what they should do when there is a whole factory in the background that probably could use some help, it really does show certain worth ethic from both cultures that contribute to then and now in my opinion.

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Re: Roles reversed?

by [Keefer George](#) – Saturday, March 5, 2016, 4:24 PM

I see definite parallels with today as many many manufacturing jobs are shipped overseas not only to China but to other low wage countries around the world. It seems in response to unionization and fair wages fought for by workers, corporations that are paying for legisaltion in America have now written trade agreements such as NAFTA that force Americans to compete the price of our labor here with the price of labor worldwide. As we see currently with the automobile industry factories are closing down in america, and rebuilding in mexico where the cost of labor is 1.50 an hr, compared to here where autoworker unions have fought for 20–25\$ an hour. This corporate greed where they are willing to sell out American workers for every last dollar is reflected in the rise of outside the party presidential candidates such as Sanders and Trump. The globalized economy seems to benefit a very few ultra wealthy at the expense of everyone else. I can't see Americans ever needing to go to China to earn a few dollars a day in a manufacturing plant but who knows what the future holds.

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Re: Roles reversed?

by [Michaela Ensele](#) – Saturday, March 5, 2016, 9:18 PM

I never really thought of the fact that so many companies do have their company head quarters and manufacturing over seas. I could never imagine working that hard for such little pay but I guess that is the American in me! I wouldn't be surprised if eventually all products sold in America are made from a different country. I think the commercial should be a wake up call for Americans, we need to be more aware anout what is going on because not many people think about what the future will hold for us and generations after us.

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The journey of the Chinese race

by [Evan Andrade](#) – Monday, February 29, 2016, 11:12 PM

The Chinese were originally looked at as barbaric, overwhelming, and slave like race. In the political cartoons it showed how the Chinese were taking over. The political cartoons show the Chinese as extremely hard working slave like people that do all the work while the white men lounge around outside. In another it si showing how the Chinese are invading america which led to the US wanting to keep them out via Scotts exclusion act. The Chinese were treated horribly but the white men were dependent on them to do the work because without them the work wouldn't have been done so in that aspect we really haven't changed because we are still extremely dependent on china for resources and labor. What we have overcome though is the horrible slave like treatment

towards chinese americans.

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Re: The journey of the Chinese race

by [Keefer George](#) - Saturday, March 5, 2016, 5:08 PM

I disagree that we need to rely on them for labor today. Could iphones not be built here in America? The answer is of course they could, but for higer labor cost and less profit for the company. Corporations today are still exploiting the cheap labor of the Chinese people and really people all over the globe in their race to make as much profit as possible.

While we have overcome the horrible slave like treatment towards Chinese Americans here in America, we continue to employ foreigners in their own countries under slave like conditions. Have we merely offshored slavery in an out of sight out of mind type of way? The iphone manufacturer Foxconn as recently as 2012 was seen setting up suicide nets, to prevent their employees(slaves) from jumping to their deaths as they work(slave) for so many hours on end it would be illegal here in the states.

Tens of thousands of factories have been moved over seas to avoid paying Americans a decent wage for their labor. Can we get these jobs back, and how?

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Debt to the Chinese

by [Rebecca Heard](#) - Wednesday, March 2, 2016, 10:39 AM

This commercial was a bit humorous in my opinion. The Chinese men actually make a point, our debt is owned by them. At the end of the clip the man says "now they work for us" which related way back to when Leland Stanford had countless numbers of Chinese men working for him on the Central Pacific Railroad for as little of pay he could get out of them.

Once he was done with the Railroad, the Chinese Exclusion Act took place which banned immigration of these Chinese men for 10 years. This was extended for ten more years and then permanently extended in 1901. Of course, once China helped us fight against Japan in World War 2 the Act didn't apply any longer, rightly so.

I don't think this is how it works in American today, no. Instead like the video mentioned, the United States today is in major financial debt to the Chinese Government.

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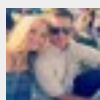
Re: Debt to the Chinese

by [Michaella Ensele](#) - Friday, March 4, 2016, 10:13 PM

I agree that the Video was a little humorous could you imagine us going to China to have a better life and make money for our families back in America? It would be an insane slap in the face. I think that Leland Stanford was a very interesting person in the aspect of him not liking a certain group of people until they had use for him and even then treats them like they are nothing and once they are no use anymore totally abandon them, the sad thing is people like this still exist today. When does it end?!

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Re: Chinese - Now and Then

by [Benjamin Glaeser](#) - Wednesday, March 2, 2016, 3:21 PM

There are many similarities between the commercial shown and the historical American behaviors toward Chinese. During that time when the Chinese began immigrating here they began taking over and doing many jobs for less money making it hard for Americans to work. Today pretty much everything in America is made overseas and mostly China, just look on labels and almost everything says "Made in China." The difference between now and then in my opinion is that even though so many jobs that are being done in China could be done here in America by Americas, they are done overseas, not right outside our front window. I think many

Americans don't realize or don't get the same exposure as back then.

I think something should definatly be done about our current problem today. Big buisnesses and the government would rather sell out for cheap labor overseas than give the jobs to Americans and pay them more. Which is exactly what happen almost a 100 years ago. The video made a very good point the U.S, is in trillions of dollars in debt, most of which we owe to the Chinese. So what happens when they decide they want their money back?

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Made in China

by [Rebecca Heard](#) – Friday, March 4, 2016, 10:59 PM

I agree with your response and really like the differences between American in relation to China today and how it was in the nineteenth century. You're right, at least before the work the Chinese were doing for us was in front of our own eyes and under some of our authority, so we were paying them for things we knew were going on and could see for our own eyes.

Now, in today's world everything is done overseas with little knowledge to what is really happening. I would way rather our government paid citizens here a little more money. Yes it's lower pay to have it most of our work done overseas, but it's nothing for us to be proud of.

I know so many people including my mom who specifically buy things that are made in the U.S. and nothing else. Like these people, I would like to see more of made in the U.S than made in China, especially since like you said we are in endless debt with them.

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Chinese – Now and Then

by [Bryan Jakiemiec](#) – Wednesday, March 2, 2016, 9:05 PM

The main connection that I can make between the commercial and the old cartoons is that in both cases, it seems to be a possible reality that the Chinese can overthrow America. In the cartoons, things such as a Chinese man swallowing Uncle Sam, a Chinese man murdering a white women, and a Chinese man who seems to have his hands in everything (relating to business in the west) all seem to portray the fear that Americans have when it comes to the possibility that the Chinese people think they can eventually control America. Now, the commercial portrays the same message that American people thought the Chinese believed back in the 19th century: That Chinese people can possibly control America as if it's a puppet. There is validity to both the cartoons and the commercial. The threat of a Chinese takeover of the American economy in the 19th century scared Americans so much that they made a Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882, which banned Chinese people from immigrating to America. This Act lasted until 1943. Americans believed that not allowing any more Chinese people to immigrate would stop the possibility of Chinese people controlling the American economy. The commercial has validity in the sense that we do owe China a lot of money, but the statement that us Americans work for China is not completely fair to say. Sure, we are in debt to China and continuously have to pay them money, but in no way are we controlled or enslaved by China. It's hard to say that this is history repeating itself because there are different circumstances. In the 19th century, it was Chinese people who were fighting and scratching to try to make their mark in the American economy, but in today's world, China is not battling to overtake American economically, since they have most certainly done that already.

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Re: Chinese – Now and Then

by [Coal Taylor](#) – Saturday, March 5, 2016, 10:14 PM

One thing I'd like to point out is that the white woman being murdered in that cartoon was not just a regular citizen, it was a likeness of Lady Liberty. This cartoon was showing that the Chinese were killing Lady Liberty, which represents one of the biggest beliefs in our country. I think that this can be extended to say the cartoon was showing that the Chinese coming in and taking over jobs because of their willingness to work for such cheap prices is killing the equal opportunity of the rest of the American citizens, and in turn hurting their freedom, their liberty.

This idea of a loss of liberty makes an interesting connection to the commercial, where futuristic China controlled America. America's liberty is killed by the Chinese both literally in the cartoon and figuratively in the commercial.

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cartoons
by [Rebecca Heard](#) – Thursday, March 3, 2016, 11:44 AM

In my eyes these political cartoons show the Chinese men having the power, and taking over the white men. This does accurately demonstrate the way things were looking in American in the nineteenth century, and in some ways how they are still looking in today's world. White men were having the Chinese men do all of their labor for them for very little pay, leaving some of the other lower class white men out of jobs. The Chinese men were definately taking over the labor industry.

Today, these cartoons still apply in my opinion because in many ways China does control us. The American Government is in great debt with them, ultimately leaving them with much authority over us.

In class it was mentioned that payback is coming with China and unlike many American's, they have certainly not forgotten the history between our two countries and the way they were treated many lifetimes ago.

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Uncle Sam and The Exclusion Act
by [Titus Young](#) – Thursday, March 3, 2016, 1:30 PM

One of the political cartoons depicts Uncle Sam trying to hold a door closed. The Door has written on it "Scott's Exclusion Act". On the other side of the door are Chinese spilling out. This is obviously a reference to the Chinese Exclusion Act. However, the act does not seem to be working. The cartoon shows many Chinese slipping out the windows, cracks in the doors, and some even slipping past Uncle Sam. Near the top of the door the word "Canada" is written and near the bottom the word "Mexico" is written. This is obviously referencing to the United States of America's borders. This clearly is saying that Chinese will try to get into America by any means necessary. I am not sure whether this is supporting the act or criticizing it, because some of the Chinese are slipping past Uncle Sam, but the act is holding back most of the Chinese.

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Re: Chinese – Now and Then
by [Clayton LeaMaster](#) – Thursday, March 3, 2016, 5:19 PM

The commercial is kind of ironic because they came to us when they needed work and we provided because at the time we were a semi-new and thriving country. The debt issue in our country may create a problem in the future and we are going to have to rely on the Chinese for work as they did us during reconstruction. It does make sense to make these assumptions because if we ever get into a spot we would turn to them just as we do for more money. History is repeating because the one country in need seeks help through the other. We aren't necessarily immigrating to their country but we still rely on them for help just as they did during the Reconstruction Era.

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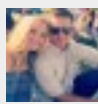


Re: Chinese – Now and Then
by [Keefer George](#) – Saturday, March 5, 2016, 4:35 PM

I don't think we truly need to rely on them for help with labor today, I believe we are being lied to by corporations and our own government so that corporations can extract every dollar possible out of the manufacture of goods. Past trade agreements such as NAFTA have led to the closure of tens of thousands of factories in America as they are closed and rebuilt in lower wage countries so that the owners of said corporations can keep more of the money involved in production. Even today the Trans-Pacific Partnership is being shoved through congress with the details remaining secret in order to further screw over the working

class Americans who have historically relied on good paying manufacturing jobs. No where are these shitty free trade agreements more evident than in Detroit Michigan, it went from being the richest city in the country in the early 1960s to the poorest today following the passage of trade agreements and the mass exodus of good paying manufacturing jobs.

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Re: Chinese Cartoons
by Benjamin Glaeser – Friday, March 4, 2016, 3:19 PM

I think the first cartoon shows the ability of the chinese to do many different tasks, as well as their way of taking of all jobs which i think we can relate to today due to the fact almost everything we have seems to come from them. The second and third cartoons shows the overwhelming problem of immigration and foriegners caused for Americans. Clearly this is something we can relate to today not with the chinese but illegal immigration from mexico. But the cartoon that creates the biggest impact in my opinion is the last one. Where the Chinese man appears to have killed Lady Liberty. This is symbolic in many ways and is even symbolic in todays times. The chinese own so much of American debt that they could possibly have the power to ruin our economy causing very severe and lasting problems.

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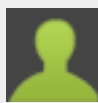
CAGW commercial not nearly as racist as the past examples.
by Keefer George – Saturday, March 5, 2016, 3:30 PM

The Citizens Against Government Waste commercial does appear to have racial undertones, not nearly as bad as the 19th century political cartoons but they are still there. I was amazed to learn about the Chinese Exclusion Act in class, I was completely unaware the US had banned Chinese people from America in 1882, and that it had lasted over 60 years is disgusting to me.

I think the CAGW commercial has a powerful message that our government is spending far more than it is taking in, but what are the reasons for that? Could it be that our government deficit was created by the wage stagnation in America as we are forced to compare our cost of labor as Americans with the low wages of other countries due to oxymoronically titled trade agreements, like the “North American Free Trade Agreement” and the “Permanent Normalized Trade Relations with China”? These trade agreements sound nice but they’ve been shown to push factories and jobs overseas, drying up not only good paying manufacturing jobs, but also the tax revenue the government received from taxing these good paying manufacturing jobs.

In my opinion CAGW could have sent the same powerful message with a lot less racism by focusing on the wasteful spending on the bailouts of the banking and auto industries. I wonder what kind of unintentional negative impacts are created by commercials such as these. I can’t imagine a commercial like this produces good feelings of America when viewed in China.

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Re: Chinese – Now and Then
by Coal Taylor – Saturday, March 5, 2016, 5:19 PM

One factor that is very similar between the commercial and the role of the Chinese in the late 19th century is how they are being used as a fear factor towards Americans. The commercial shows a future in which we are essentially taken over by the Chinese because of our excessive spending, and attempts to use the fear of this future to recruit members for their organization, which is trying to make the government cut down on spending. In the 19th century, the Chinese would work for so cheap that bosses would use a threat of hiring Chinese workers to keep the people already working there on lower wages. The commercial and the 19th century bosses are not using the Chinese fear factor in exactly the same way, but they both certainly are using the Chinese people as a threat to better meet their goals. In this sense, history really is just repeating itself.

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